



PUBLIC COMMENTS

[The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) has solicited input from the public about the topics under its mandate since January 2018. Individuals have shared their views by posting comments on the Commission [website](#), emailing info@inspire2serve.gov or national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil, submitting comment cards at public events, or mailing letters. These public comments supplement research efforts and are one of many factors under consideration as the Commission deliberates its recommendations to the Congress, the President, and the American people.

The Commission is committed to transparency and openness with the public. With that in mind, the Commission will be posting comments received from the public on its website at regular intervals. This document covers all public comments received during the month of September. Future comments will be released on roughly a monthly basis.

There are a few facts about these comments that are important to understand.

- Public comments are posted in the order received with the most recent comment being listed last.
- The comments may address questions or topics posed by the Commission. The views expressed in comments reflect those of the individual or organization who commented and do not represent the official views of the Commission or the federal government.
- Comments are not nationally representative. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of comments a single individual or organization may submit.
- Although the Commission's initial request for comments published in the Federal Register expired (September 30, 2018), the Commission extended the submission of comments until December 31, 2019.

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service posts comments received in their entirety. The Commission applies redactions in limited circumstances to personally identifiable information, such as personal email address and phone numbers. The Commission reserves the right to redact language that poses a threat to individuals. Posting of public comments does not constitute an endorsement of any views expressed therein or of the content of any external links that members of the public have included in their comments.

The Commission welcomes comments from the public on any aspect of the Commission's mission and feedback on the staff memorandum released prior to the Commission's public hearings. Please submit your comments at <https://inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 31, 2019.

Date	Text of Response
9/1/19	<p>I believe that with current drone technology and autonomous vehicle operations, mass mobilizations and widespread military involvement are quickly becoming things of the past. If my DJI drone can follow a preprogrammed path and take pictures on it's own, I see no reason why the military couldn't also use that technology in combat to reduce the number of people on the ground, in the line of fire.</p> <p>The Selective Service is no longer necessary -- if people think a war is worth fighting, the government won't have to force them to fight.</p> <p>If not abolished, it is necessary that women also be required to register for the Selective Service. My female peers have no more right to live than I do. With the current movement towards women's rights and equality, I'm honestly surprised this change hasn't been made yet.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.</p> <p>Chance Olufson</p>
9/3/19	<p>If we are going to force young men to sign over their lives for their country, why not women? The third wave of feminists want equality, so let's give them true equality, not the, sit on a couch with a cup of 'male tears' equality, but the, be forced to go to war if necessary, kind of equality. Women are as capable as men, so we should treat them as such. If you are forcing men to sign up, the same should be expected for women.</p> <p>-R</p>

9/3/19

Good afternoon,

I wanted to take a moment and comment on Staff Memo "Universal Service Hearing: Should Service be Mandatory?" and express my frustration at the Selective Service process overall, which has put honest, upstanding men like myself in a big hole professionally.

I am 43 years old, living in Florida and am unable to get a job with State of Florida due to there being no record of my signing up for Selective Service. I remember specifically when a member of the military came into our classroom at Edgewater HS in Orlando in 1994, explained what Selective Service, was and we all signed postcard-size cards with our name and information on them because that's what we were basically told to do. That gentleman then disappeared into the night and none of us ever thought twice about whether our cards would actually be registered into a system and certainly never contemplated the thought of Selective Service impacting our ability to get a job, get a loan, etc. Yet, here I am with no way to prove whether I signed up for Selective Service or not. This was back before computers were as ubiquitous as they are now and prior to the mass adoption of the Internet which included more secure ways of tracking information, and our future rested on some card we filled out and given to some stranger and then inputted into some system, all of which was completely out of our control. The amazing part is that once you miss that 18-26 year old window, you're never able to ever sign up again. I'm not sure how that's fair? It's not as though I was dodging a possible draft, and I never knowingly or willingly tried to avoid signing my card. Yet our federal government has made it so there's no possible way to correct a mistake that wasn't even mine. After doing some extensive googling (as you can imagine I did, once I remembered what Selective Service even was), I know there are tens of thousands of other men in my situation across the country who end up being denied a job or a loan because of something they did or didn't do 10, 20, 30 years ago.

I'm hopeful this issue gets resolved at the federal level ASAP, and those of us caught up in this tangled, messy web through no fault of our own, are allowed to live our lives without being punished by a system that even the former head of the agency admits is inaccurate and unfair.

I'm not sure what the answer is to finding Americans who are able to fight for their country if needed, but I feel confident that relying on an archaic, flawed and fundamentally unconstitutional system is probably not the appropriate way.

Thank you for reading my letter submission and I hope this process gets eliminated for the sake of thousands of hard working Americans.

All the best,
James Miller

9/4/19	<p>Many citizens, for reasons of conscience or religion, believe that God never permits killing and that our salvation and peace depends on doing works of mercy instead of works of war. War and the spirit of war opposes the works of mercy at every point. It's not up to government to decide about legitimacy of belief or conscience by requiring service, for it is counterproductive of civic health and peace to restrict or oppose conscience or religion. For the health of the country, government should encourage both.</p> <p>We also believe that, while we want to give service to others, our salvation depends on our following the direction of the Holy Spirit, not the government, in our lives and actions and depends on not giving incense to Caesar. Besides, a required government service program would undermine recruiting efforts of already-existing religious service groups, such as the American Friends Service Committee and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.</p> <p>In addition, young people leaving college now, saddled with heavy debts, take years to repay before they are free to direct their own lives as they feel led. To add another obligation of service requiring more years would be a further damper upon initiative and enterprise among these younger citizens who are the hope of our future.</p> <p>For all these reasons, registration should be stopped and compulsory service not required, and the government should refrain from activities, such as all-out war, as distinct from police actions, that require such means, instead giving attention to resolving the catastrophic environmental problems that are the challenge of our time, using monies withdrawn from the support being given to the very corporations that are causing the problems. Waging war today in the face of such environmental problems is a monumental distraction. We need to unite with all other peoples for our own survival. We have to learn a whole new mindset.</p> <p>Finally the predictions of Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King are coming true, and we must destroy war, or war and nature will destroy us. There is no further excuse for anyone having weapons of mass destruction, nuclear power systems, or navies, armies, and air forces that are the biggest polluters on the planet, even when only patrolling in peacetime. We must learn how to live in an environmentally sound way, at peace with humans and nature, not having the military corps of engineers build dams that silt and flood.</p> <p>The government, therefore, should encourage, not oppose, conscience, initiative, enterprise, environmental responsibility, and service. It should lead in redirecting world resources from military efforts that are obsolete in the face of human and environmental problems. If it wishes to play a role in rescuing the environment, it should do it by leading. For all these reasons, the government should stop compulsory registration and not initiate compulsory service, whether military or civilian.</p>
9/5/19	I ask the God of Israel our Creator and His only son Jesus Christ my Saviour to send His Angels into this world to destroy satan worshipers who rape, torture and murder children; and destroy the abortion industries for mass murder and live dissection of Babies; and destroy communist china. Kingdom of God of Israel of Jesus Christ Franklin Brian Taylor [REDACTED]
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9/6/19	<p>This comment seeks help in a summary of Public Comments after July 2019. Are comments and documents still being accepted by the Commision as noted on the web site. I've submitted comments and attended hearings and do not see comments submitted in August. Please advise.</p> <p>Dean Hess [REDACTED]</p>
9/8/19	Allow women to register for a draft for the SSS.
9/18/19	No I don't think we need the draft back there are people that want to volunteer and so much technology drones and other high technology that can be used
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9/20/19	Do you have a plan to advertise to homeless, bottom of the barrel/ down and out people?
9/22/19	Modifications to the Selective Service is required. I feel considering, and requiring women to register like men do at the age of 18 is important. Women should be treated equal and could do the same work as men. They are already in the military, so if there were to be a war, hopefully not, the USA would have the power it would need.
9/22/19	My name is Matthew and I am 26 years old looking to join the national guard. I think that the desire to serve is high in my generation we just don't know how too outside of the military. With the student loan crisis going on I think that free or discounted college outside of military service would be a big plus for high school students. If there was a 12-48month service program with different options for service (military, National or Public) that would entice people that were not military oriented to do some service in return for education benefits or other benefits. In relation to the selective service act I think that I should be expanded to include women 18-26 years old. I think that we should require all high school students to take the ASVAB to graduate and integrate changes to the selective service that their ASVAB numbers should be connected to their selective service listing and if they have special skills they should be contacted to see if they would like to volunteer. I think that service should be required but only for national or public service and that military service should still be insentivized but only required in a draft type national emergency.
9/22/19	As a mom of two sons, I find it offensive that only males are required to register for Selective Service. If women are screaming for equal rights, then it should be equal, in ALL things! Please don't discriminate on the basis of gender.
9/23/19	<p>I strongly believe that one should provide some service to our country. I have (in the 1960's) served in Vista and the Peace Corps. In the 70's I was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow with the assignment to help establish the Oglala Sioux Community College on the Pine Ridge Reservation. After this I spent over 35 years working in local government in the Chicago Suburbs. Two things I encountered upon my decision to retire I believe should be considered, if not already being discussed.</p> <p>First, upon my retirement I was asked if I served my country and of course said yes. The Illinois pension fund that wished to offer additional years of service for calculation of my pension refused to recognize any service except for military service. I strongly believe that the commission needs to address this in order to make service of equal and important value. At least service overseas such as Peace Corps should be given equal value as military service. I would be interested in discussing this further if needed.</p> <p>Second, if service is to be equal and of value, the logo of the service should be allowed in obituary announcements and on gravestones.</p>

9/24/19	<p>CODEPINK Opposes Compulsory Draft Registration for All Genders</p> <p>CODEPINK, a women-led grassroots organization working to end U.S. wars and militarism, strongly opposes expanding draft registration to women, and strongly supports ending draft registration for men, as well as ending all penalties for past failures to register.</p> <p>Women’s equality will not be achieved by including women in a draft system that forces civilians to participate in activities that are against their will and harm others in large numbers, such as war. The draft is not a women’s rights issue, as it does nothing to advance the cause of equality and functionally limits freedom of choice for Americans of all genders.</p> <p>While we demand equal pay for women in all areas of our economy, it is irresponsible for the fight for women’s rights to seek equal moral injury, equal PTSD, equal brain injury, equal suicide rates, equal lost limbs, or equal violent tendencies that military veterans suffer from. When it comes to the military, women's equality is better served by ending draft registration for everyone.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Army has questioned the need to keep draft registration, and for good reason. It's a hugely expensive bureaucracy. Today's army is supposed to be all volunteer and this compulsory registration punishes people for their anti-war beliefs, forcing civilians to act against their morality.</p> <p>A draft is often viewed as democratic because it spreads the burden of recruitment across social classes; it is even seen by some as reducing the possibility of reckless war-making because it spurs anti-war activism. Compulsion, however, is an undemocratic process, and history does not support the claim that drafts prevent or end wars. The answer to a "volunteer military" disproportionately recruiting from economically disadvantaged communities is not to impose a universal draft but to work against the military’s targeting of underserved communities and provide more economic opportunities beyond military enrollment. No one should have to join the military to get access to a college education or skills training needed to get decent jobs.</p> <p>Our nation must move away from endless war and its dangerous reliance on militarism. Let's not expand draft registration but abolish it.</p>
9/30/19	<p>Regarding, "Is a mandatory service requirement for all Americans necessary, valuable, and feasible?", the answer should be "no".</p> <p>Mandatory service is involuntary servitude. We abolished that with the 13th amendment in 1865 and for good reason. We have learned through experience that an all-volunteer military is superior to a conscript military. Likewise, voluntary service is superior to mandatory service. Those who are forced to serve would be no better than indentured servants.</p>